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by the British and French press as a warning bordering on menace. That was not the way to foster a friendly understanding between Germany and France. No better means of embroiling the situation and leading to a violent explosion could have been found.

Grey defended the speech on the ground that it merely claimed the consideration due to a great nation; but the conversation, which the Ambassador described as extremely lively, ended on a softer note. It was not intended by anything that had been or would be said, declared the Foreign Secretary, to embroil the Franco-German negotiations, which we sincerely desired to succeed. Grey was profoundly disturbed by the interview. "I have just received a communication from the German Ambassador," he remarked to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "so stiff that the fleet might be attacked at any moment. I have sent for McKenna to warn him." He trusted the Chancellor, but Kiderlen, who was now at the helm, inspired no confidence. "We are dealing with people who recognize no law except that of force between nations," he complained. After this sharp exchange the situation improved. On July 27 a communication arrived from Berlin couched in the friendliest terms. Adverse criticism from the English side, it stated, must obviously render the negotiations more difficult, while a public statement that England would welcome a successful conclusion of the Franco-German pourparlers would have a most beneficial effect. The desired declaration was made in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister the same afternoon.

The Mansion House pronouncement, while infuriating German opinion, slightly modified German claims. Yesterday's conversation was very different from the last two, re-

ported the French Ambassador on July 24. "Reserving the free export of iron, Germany will let you found this North African Empire which is your great objective." Kiderlen renewed the demand from the Congo to the sea, but offered Togoland, North Camerun and the absolute abandonment of Morocco. Once again the French Ambassador replied that it was impossible to cede the French Congo. On July 28 Kiderlen declared the proposed offer of portions of the French Congo quite insufficient, and added that the French Government seemed disinclined to come to an arrangement. Public opinion in France, rejoined the Ambassador, would be severely critical of the offers already made. There was public opinion